



# ENVIRONMENTAL POLICY – April 2024

## 1. Statement of Intent

A registered Community Interest Organisation (CIO), The Whole Life Community Garden aims to provide for the public benefit of the residents of Haxby and Wigginton (north of York) the creation and maintenance of a community garden for the promoting of the physical, psychological, social and spiritual well-being of the community, by providing a suitable space for:

social prescribing and well-being;  
horticultural activities, and;  
fostering biodiversity and eco-friendly practices.

In seeking to achieve this, The Whole Life Community Garden believes that its operation should be undertaken with minimal impact on both the local and global environment. Environmental considerations will therefore be integral to The Whole Life Community Garden's vision and operational plans.

## 2. Code of Practice

To achieve our vision, The Whole Life Community Garden is committed to:

1. Meeting or exceeding requirements set out in current UK environmental legislation and associated regulations.
2. Seeking to provide the resources required to deliver this policy
3. Reducing our impacts on the environment.

## 3. Organisational values

Our organisational values include:

**3.1 Sustainability:** carrying out all activities in a way that is beneficial or at least neutral to the environment.

**3.2 Inclusivity:** providing a safe and friendly environment for all volunteers and visitors.

**3.3 Enthusiasm for our vision:** fostering it in all our volunteers, trustees and visitors.

**3.4 Education:** enabling people to make informed choices as part of a sustainable lifestyle,

communicating effectively our commitment to the environment and promoting good environmental practice regularly to volunteers, visitors and the local community.

#### 4. Strategic Impacts

**Our vision will be achieved by** focusing on five strategic impacts:

**4.1 Zero Carbon:** Minimising the amount of carbon produced, by minimising energy use, by using renewable energy sources, by efficient use of water and avoidance of peat-based products and use of travel by foot/bicycle/public transport where possible.

**4.2 Zero Waste:** Minimising the amount of waste generated and encouraging recycling. We will endeavour to ensure products and services utilised by The Whole Life Community Garden are environmentally sustainable.

**4.3 Pollution Control:** minimising emissions and discharges to air, water and land by avoidance of chemical use and promotion of organic gardening methods.

**4.4 Land use & Wildlife:** Increasing access to open spaces and promoting biodiversity locally.

**4.5 Health & Wellbeing:** Increasing the number of people leading happy and healthy lives in our community through social prescribing.

#### 5. Measuring Progress

The Whole Life Community Garden will assess and report progress against these strategic impacts and will continually assess its operations to determine how it interacts with the environment. Actions will be taken whenever possible to ensure that the environment is protected.

#### 6. Review

This policy will be reviewed by the Trustees every 12 months at a minimum, or sooner if warranted by internal or external events or changes. Changes to the Policy will be recommended by the Environment Specialist Trustee to the Board of Trustees.

Approved by the Board of Trustees:

Policy Date:	Review Date:	Adopted by: